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## International Relations Committee

### OPEN MINUTES

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Minutes of a meeting of International Relations Committee held in the Council Chambers, 15 Forth Street, Invercargill on Thursday, 4 June 2015 at 2pm.

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#### PRESENT

<b>Chairperson</b>	Bruce Ford
<b>Members</b>	Mei Ling Au
	Irene Barnes
	Elizabeth Clark
	Everill Cocker
	Ngarita Dixon
	Paul Duffy
	Robbie Grove
	Jan Lowrey
	Gwen Neave

#### IN ATTENDANCE

Group Manager Policy and Community Rex Capil, Communications and Governance Manager Louise Pagan, Venture Southland Community Development Planner Julie Russell and Committee Advisor Debbie Webster.

**1 Apologies**

Apologies received from Irene Barnes and Everill Cocker.

Moved Member Clark, seconded Member Neave **and resolved:**  
**That the International Relations Committee accept the apologies.**

**2 Leave of absence**

A leave of absence was requested by Gwen Neave until the end of August 2015.

Moved Member Clark, seconded Member Lowrey **and resolved:**  
**That the International Relations Committee accept the leave of absence.**

**3 Conflict of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

**4 Public Forum**

There was no Public Forum.

**5 Extraordinary/Urgent Items**

Moved Member Dixon, seconded Member Lowrey **and resolved:**

**That the International Relations Committee consider the following items as a matter of urgent business, subject to Section 46A of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.**

Item 1: Powerpoint on Sister Cities New Zealand Conference from Gwen Neave

Item 2: Verbal update from Cr Duffy on his visit to Winton, Australia for ANZAC Day and Cinque Terre relationship.

**6 Confirmation of Minutes**

Moved Member Dixon, seconded Member Neave **and resolved:**

**That the International Relations Committee confirms the minutes dated 26 February 2015, as a true and correct record.**

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**Reports for Resolution**

**7.1 Report from Cr Ford on Sister Cities Conference, Wellington 10 - 11 April 2015**

**Record No: R/15/5/8538**

Cr Ford spoke to his report sharing highlights of the Sister Cities New Zealand Conference held in Wellington from the 10th to the 11th of April 2015. He noted on the 9th April the workshop held at Government House for Mayors and Chair persons, stating there was very good presentations and round table discussions followed by photographs with the Governor General, Sir Gerry Matapere and social networking opportunities.

Moved Chairperson Ford, seconded Member Clark **and resolved:**

**That the International Relations Committee:**

- a) **Receives the report titled “Report from Cr Ford on Sister Cities Conference, Wellington 10 - 11 April 2015” dated 14 May 2015.**
- b) **Determines that this matter or decision be recognised not as significant in terms of Section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002.**
- c) **Determines that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with Section 79 of the Act determines that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.**

**7.2 Report from Mei Ling Au on Sister Cities Conference Wellington 10 -11 April 2015**

**Record No: R/15/5/8949**

Ms Au’s report highlighted the two day Sister Cities New Zealand Conference and included the points on the cultural exchanges, the engagement of groups and on local government involvement.

Moved Member Neave, seconded Member Lowrey **and resolved:**

**That the International Relations Committee:**

- a) **Receives the report titled “Report from Mei Ling Au on Sister Cities Conference Wellington 10 -11 April 2015” dated 20 May 2015.**
- b) **Determines that this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of Section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002.**
- c) **Determines that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with Section 79 of the Act determines that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.**

**7.3 Financial Report to International Relations Committee for the period ended 30 April 2015**

**Record No: R/15/5/9005**

Cr Ford spoke to the Financial report noting the commentary with the explanations on the variances to date. Membership fees/subscriptions were over budget as a result of two years subscriptions being paid in the current financial year, unbudgeted flowers/gifts were in relation to purchase of Southland books for presents as well as various gift vouchers, miscellaneous grants were over budget due to the payment of the Youth Ambassador grant as well as the ANZAC essay competition, mileage and travel claims were over budget due to the number of meetings paid in the current financial year, budgets were prepared based on 4 meetings per annum and general project costs were in relation to engagement of a translator for the visit from the Chinese contingency in late 2014. Based on the actual costs to date the business unit would be in deficit at year end. Funding of the deficit would be from the International Relations Committee reserve.

Mrs Pagan noted that if the Committee were to continue with the additional section for multimedia in the ANZAC Essay Competition the budget would need to be amended in the new financial year to accommodate the two prizes.

Moved Member Lowrey, seconded Cr Duffy **and resolved:**

**That the International Relations Committee:**

- a) **Receives the report titled “Report to International Relations Committee for the period ended 30 April 2015” dated 04 June 2015.**

**7.4 Procedure for Receiving International Relationship Proposals**

**Record No: R/15/3/4447**

Mrs Pagan spoke to the report noting it was to provide guidance on and adopt the procedure for receiving an international relationship proposal to Southland District Council from a possible overseas partner. A procedure had been developed for receiving an international relationship proposal to Southland District Council from a possible overseas partner. It would guide the International Relations Committee if there are any future proposals from potential overseas partners, on how to proceed, and what steps should be taken to ensure that the partnership was of benefit to Southland District.

Mrs Pagan commented that all international relationships would be approved by Council. Mr Capil noted that he had asked Duan Zhao to follow up with Tai’An on what their expectations were on their relationship with the Southland District Council. He commented that the Southland District Council could repay the visit Tai’An paid the Council last year. Discussion followed on who might represent the Council on such a visit and when it might happen. It was noted September was a celebration month in Tai’An which might be appropriate for a visit, the date would need to go before Council at its August meeting. Mr Capil suggested the representation would most likely be the Mayor and /or Deputy Mayor.

There was further discussion on whether the International Relations Committee should consider relationships with other countries. Mr Capil noted Sister Cities New

Zealand have a bank of interested international parties however there would need to be a reasoned approach to establishing any new relationships. Looking to countries where there are commonalities to Southland such as dairy, education, sport etc. Cr Duffy commented that any engagement needed to be fiscally sensible and of benefit to Southland. It was agreed that turning commonalities into reciprocal benefits for both countries and districts.

Moved Member Neave, seconded Member Clark **and resolved:**

**That the International Relations Committee:**

- a) **Receives the report titled “Procedure for Receiving International Relationship Proposals” dated 26 May 2015.**
- b) **Determines that this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of Section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002.**
- c) **Determines that it has complied with the decision making provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with Section 79 of the Act determines that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.**
- d) **Provide guidance on the Procedure for Receiving International Relationship Proposals**
- e) **Adopt the Procedure for Receiving International Relationship Proposals**

#### **7.5 Powerpoint presentation on Sister Cities New Zealand Conference**

Member G Neave provided a powerpoint presentation of her experience at the Sister Cities New Zealand Conference in Wellington. Mrs Neave acknowledged the support of the Southland District Council in enabling her to attend the conference.

#### **7.6 Verbal update from Cr Duffy on his visit to Winton, Australia for ANZAC Day and Cinque Terre relationship.**

Cr Duffy noted that he and Cr Bailey attended the ANZAC celebrations on behalf of the Southland District Council at Winton, Queensland, Australia. He commented the Mayor of Winton was keen to return the visit to Winton, Southland for a future ANZAC Day. Cr Duffy commented Winton, Queensland is similar to Winton, Southland in that they were both small rural communities although with very different climates. He noted it had not rained in Winton, Queensland for over four years. It was a town of 900 people, they have a truck museum with connections to HW Richardson’s here in Southland. Winton, Queensland is home to the Flying Doctor Service, the beginnings of Australia’s national airline Qantas, the song Waltzing Matilda was created in Winton and dinosaur remains have been found in the area.

Cr Duffy updated the Committee on his recent discussion with the contact for Cinque Terre in Italy. He explained some of the background and history to the relationship the area had with the Southland District Council. He suggested the promotion of an agricultural partnership with the Department of Conservation might be a more beneficial relationship.

Following discussion it was agreed that a letter be written to Cinque Terre translated

into Italian querying how they might like to go forward with the international relationship with the Southland District Council. Mrs Pagan to action the letter.

Cr Duffy updated the Committee on his new role as a member of the Sister Cities New Zealand Board. They met in May this year, Cr Duffy highlighted the following points:

- Sister Cities New Zealand have been invited to present at the Local Government New Zealand Conference.
- The Sister Cities awards are supported by Air New Zealand, Cr Duffy suggested the International Relations Committee might consider placing an entry. There would be a new category of Sister Cities Schools.
- He encouraged the Committee to consider items for the next Sister Cities New Zealand newsletter.
- The 2016 Sister Cities Conference will be held in Nelson, celebrating 35 years of Sister Cities New Zealand.

### **7.7 Councillor's Report**

Cr Ford gave a verbal update noting the following:

- The new International Relations Committee flyers had been printed and were available at the meeting for members to take away.
- He noted the International Relations Committee work plan that Ms McNeill completed should be considered by the Committee going forward.
- He noted the work Committee member Robbie Grove is undertaking to raise support for the people of Nepal following the earthquake in the region and invited Robbie to give a verbal update to the Committee on his work.

Robbie gave a brief update on his trip to Nepal and the work he is currently doing to raise financial support for the region. He acknowledged and thanked the Southland District Councils for its support of his efforts.

The meeting concluded at 3.12pm

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT  
RECORD AT A MEETING OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 3 JUNE 2015

**DATE:**.....

**CHAIRPERSON:**.....